

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L TOKYO 14990

LIMDIS

DEPT PASS AGRICULTURE AND STR ELECTRONICALLY

FOR SECRETARY BERGLAND, AMBASSADOR STRAUSS, ASSISTANT
SECRETARY HOLBROOKE FROM AMBASSADOR MANSFIELD

E.O. 11652:GDS
TAGS: OVIP, JA (I. NAKAGAWA)
SUBJECT: NAKAGAWA VISIT

REF: A. TOKYO 13447, B. STATE 208101

1. DURING MY AUGUST 18 DINNER MEETING WITH MINISTER
NAKAGAWA HE EXPRESSED SOME NERVOUSNESS ABOUT WALKING INTO
THE PRESENT WASHINGTON ATMOSPHERE AND IS FULLY AWARE
OF THE HEAVY RESPONSIBILITY PLACED "ON HIS SHOULDERS"
BY THE PRIME MINISTER.

2. HE BROUGHT ALONG SIX MEMBERS OF HIS SENIOR STAFF,
INCLUDING THE PARLIAMENTARY VICE MINISTER, VICE MINISTER,
GENERAL AFFAIRS COUNSELOR AND DIRECTOR GENERALS FOR
ECONOMIC AFFAIRS, ANIMAL INDUSTRY AND AGRICULTURAL
PRODUCTION BUREAUS. HOWEVER, IT WAS OBVIOUSLY HIS SHOW
AND EXCEPT FOR SOME GENERAL COMMENTS, HIS STAFF MOSTLY
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LISTENED. I WAS ACCOMPANIED BY AGRICULTURAL ATTACHE
DUDLEY WILLIAMS.

3. I TOLD THE MINISTER THAT I UNDERSTOOD HIS NERVOUSNESS
BUT EMPHASIZED THE NEED FOR SUBSTANTIVE GOJ OFFERS IN
WASHINGTON TO BREAK THE PRESENT IMPASSE. WHILE I RECOG-
NIZED HIS PROBLEMS, I POINTED OUT OUR OWN INCLUDING THE

STRENGTHENING MOVES FOR TRADE PROTECTION MEASURES IN THE UNITED STATES WHICH WOULD IN MY OPINION BE DETRIMENTAL TO BOTH SIDES.

4. ALTHOUGH THE FOCUS WILL BE ON BEEF AND ORANGES, I URGED NAKAGAWA TO LOOK CLOSELY AT OUR REQUESTS ON TARIFF CONCESSIONS AS PROGRESS IN THESE AREAS WOULD UNDOUBTEDLY IMPROVE THE CLIMATE OF THE WASHINGTON TALKS. IN THIS CONNECTION WE NEED THE OFFICIAL LIST OF PRIORITY TARIFF CONCERNS MENTIONED BY BILL BARREDA DURING HIS RECENT VISIT.

5. I TOLD HIM THAT WE OFTEN FACE DIFFICULTIES FROM ADMINISTRATIVE AND "TECHNICAL" DECISIONS AND ACTIONS BY MAFF AND SUGGESTED THAT OFFERS OF RELIEF FROM THESE WOULD BE MOST HELPFUL IN MOVING THE TALKS FORWARD. I ASKED HIM TO CONSIDER MY COMMENTS AND SUGGESTIONS CAREFULLY AND TO WORK CLOSELY WITH US HERE ON ANY QUESTIONS HE MIGHT HAVE. HE AGREED AND SAID HE WANTS TO CONTINUE CLOSE CONTACT WITH ME PERSONALLY AND THAT HIS STAFF WILL BE WORKING CLOSELY WITH ATTACHE WILLIAMS AND HIS STAFF.

6. WHILE NAKAGAWA OBVIOUSLY WAS IN NO POSITION TO SHOW HIS HAND ON WHAT OFFERS HE WILL BE TAKING TO WASHINGTON, HE DID AGREE TO LOOK CLOSELY AT OUR REQUESTS FOR QUOTA RELIEF AS WELL AS TARIFF RATES AND TECHNICAL TRADE IMPEDIMENTS. HE BRIEFLY RECOUNTED THE PROBLEMS WITH CONFIDENTIAL

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BEEF AND ORANGES. ON TARIFFS, HE SAID OUR REQUESTS WOULD BE GIVEN DUE CONSIDERATION IN AN IN-HOUSE REVIEW AS HE HOPES TO KEEP IT OUT OF THE BROADER DOMESTIC POLITICAL ARENA. ON THE TECHNICAL ISSUES HE REMINDED US THAT WE WOULD BE GETTING RELIEF SHORTLY ON TBZ AND MENTIONED HIS RECENT ACTION INCREASING THE QUANTITY OF BEEF FOR STORE PROMOTIONS IN RESPONSE TO MY REQUEST.

7. HE AGAIN EXPRESSED AWARENESS OF THE IMPORTANCE OF BREAKING THE IMPASSE TO AVOID FURTHER FRICTIONS. HE ALSO MENTIONED THE PRIME MINISTER'S KEEN INTEREST IN REACHING SOME AGREEMENT IN WASHINGTON SO THAT CONFIDENCE IN JAPAN'S EFFORTS TO ADDRESS THE TRADE IMBALANCE BOTH WITH THE U.S. AND WORLDWIDE, WILL BE STRENGTHENED.

8. AS I POINTED OUT IN REFTTEL A, NAKAGAWA'S IMPORTANCE TO US GOES BEYOND OUR CURRENT TRADE ISSUE. HE IS A MAN OF CONSIDERABLE POLITICAL INFLUENCE AND WILL BE AROUND FOR A LONG TIME, BUT IS OBVIOUSLY UNDER THE GUN AND RECOGNIZES IT. HE MENTIONED THAT HE FELT SOMETHING LIKE A NEW BRIDE AND PROBABLY RESENTS BEING CAST INTO HIS CURRENT ROLE BY THE PRIME MINISTER. TO CARVE HIM UP IN

WASHINGTON WOULD BE A MISTAKE IN MY VIEW AND I URGE THAT
HE BE TREATED COURTEOUSLY AND WITH THE RESPECT HE DESERVES.
AS I SAID BEFORE, IF WE HANDLE HIM RIGHT, HE CAN BE A
LONG-TERM FRIEND OF THE U.S. IN GENERAL AND U.S. AGRICULTURE
IN PARTICULAR, AND WE SHOULD CAPITALIZE ON THIS
OPPORTUNITY. MANSFIELD

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